

“RRAFT ADVISORY COMMITTEE” MEETING 16 SUMMARY

Tuesday, August 5, 2008

6:30 – 9:00 PM

Missoula FWP Headquarters

3201 Spurgin Road

Missoula

- ***Opening and Agenda Overview***

- Charlie Sperry ~ FWP Recreation Management Specialist

- Charlie opened the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda.

- ***Recap of Previous Work and Exercise Instructions***

- Charlie Sperry

- Charlie recapped the work of the committee to develop management action recommendations for implementation right away to address recreationist behavior in Reach 6. He then reviewed the meeting's exercise to develop management action recommendations to address crowding and user conflict in Reach 3 (Harry Morgan to Russell Gates). Following the development of management action recommendations for reaches 3 and 6, the committee will begin to identify conditions that would trigger additional management actions in the future.

- ***Exercise (Part I) – Reviewing the Desired Conditions for Reach 3 (Harry Morgan to Russell Gates) and the Management Challenge of Crowding and User Conflict.***

- The committee began the exercise by reviewing the Reach Description and Desired Conditions for Reach 3. They then reviewed a description of the management challenge of Crowding and User Conflict and a list of management actions they developed earlier in the planning process. The committee provided clarifying and/or special information to consider when developing a list of recommended management actions for addressing crowding and user conflict in Reach 3:

- Russell Gates was primarily designed for camping but serves as both a popular take-out for Reach 3 and a popular put-in for reach 4.
 - Compared to other reaches, commercial use is highest in Reach 3
 - There is not much conflict between whitewater users and angling users in Reach 3 because whitewater opportunities are primarily located in lower reaches.
 - There is some conflict at Harry Morgan due to the physical limitations of the site.
 - The river through this reach is narrow enough that at times it does get congested.
 - This reach is not contained within the boundaries of the recreation corridor.
 - There are 4 official access points in the reach and such a few number of access sites can limit casual float use.
 - The section is 12-14 miles long and can be characterized as a longer day float.
 - There is limited access for wade angling.
 - Crowding is more of an issue than conflicts between users.
 - The level of crowding is dependent upon conditions (e.g. time of year, time of day, angling conditions, water level, water clarity, etc.)

- ***Exercise (Part II) – Describing Management Actions that FWP and/or the BLM Have Already Implemented***

-Because Blackfoot River Manager Chris Lorentz was unable to attend the meeting, prior to the meeting he prepared a list of management actions that have already been implemented and asked that FWP staff share them with the committee. Those management actions included the following:

- Established the Blackfoot SRP Program
- Established an FWP Recreation Warden position
- Banned and enforced the use of glass containers
- Completed acquisition of the Scotty Brown Bridge access site
- Rebuilt the road, graveled the boat ramp, and placed barrier rocks at Harry Morgan
- Curtailed dispersed camping and off-road use at Harry Morgan
- Began site redesign planning to separate camping and day use, build a better boat ramp and define parking capacity at Russell Gates
- Completed stream bank restoration and stabilization work at Monture Creek (tributary of the Blackfoot)
- Initiated camping fees at River Junction and limited road improvements to maintain the primitive character of the site.

- ***Exercise (Part III) – Developing a List of Recommended Management Actions for Crowding and User Conflict in Reach 3***

-From the entire list of 15 management actions each committee member was asked to identify the management actions that should be implemented right away and the management actions that should not be implemented right away to address crowding and user conflict in Reach 3. [Committee members used stickers (colored dots) to select management actions]. Agency staff members completed the same exercise following the non-agency committee members. This selection process resulted in 5 management actions on the tentative recommendation list, and 6 management actions that the committee will discuss in more depth prior to determining whether they will be recommended.

- ***Meeting Wrap-up***

- *Charlie Sperry*

-The committee examined the list of management actions following the selection process and Charlie explained that the committee would continue with the exercise at the next meeting and move on to the development of triggers that could guide implementation of management actions in the future.

- ***Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 PM***

NEXT MEETING

Monday, August 25, 2008
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
FWP Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula